

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00772 020648Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
-----080898 020712Z /20
R 010504Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5996
USICA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

UNCLAS MANAMA 0772

STATE FOR CU/NEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELTN BA
SUBJECT: FACILITATIVE PROGRAM SUPPORT

1. RASHID ALI AL-JUNAID, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT,
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, HAS BEEN
ACCEPTED AT IRBD SPONSORED MANAGEMENT STUDY PROGRAM IN
WASHINGTON DC, APRIL 28 THROUGH JULY 7. AFTER THE COURSE HE
PLANS TO REMAIN IN THE U.S. FOR

ABOUT TWO WEEKS. HE WILL RESIDE
AT CONCORDIA HOUSE, 1250 NEW HAMPSHIRE, NW.

2. POST REQUESTS ICA PROVIDE PROGRAM SUPPORT JULY 8-20.

3. MR. JUNAID IS THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT IN GOB DEALING
WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT MATTERS AND REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE
MINISTER. HE IS FACED WITH SERIOUS PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROBLEMS
AND VERY LITTLE PAST PLANNING. PROBLEMS INVOLVE CONGESTED OLD
MARKET AREA WHICH IS ADJACENT TO NEW INTERNATIONAL BANKING
DISTRICT; NARROW STREETS; LIMITED CENTRAL PARKING AND SOCIAL
OBJECTION TO PAYING FOR PARKING; SEPARATE MAJOR EMPLOYMENT
CENTERS WHICH ARE DISTANT FROM NEW LOW-COST HOUSING;
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AND CAUSEWAY LINKING SAUDI ARABIA AND BAHRAIN WHICH WILL BE
COMPLETED WITHIN 5-7 YEARS WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BRING
ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC TO THIS SMALL ISLAND.

4. MR. JUNAID WAS RECENTLY SHOWN A FILM-STRIP / TAPE
DEPICTING A NUMBER OF PRESENT AND PLANNED CONCEPTS IN
SMALL-SCALE PEOPLE MOVERS BY OFFICIALS FROM THE KUWAIT

OFFICE OF BECHTEL INTERNATIONAL. PRESENTATION STIMULATED SOME INTEREST IN TRANSPORT MINISTRY TO INVESTIGATE PEOPLE MOVER POTENTIAL. MINISTRY REALIZES THAT THIS CONCEPT MAY BE SOME TIME OFF FOR BAHRAIN BUT ALSO BELIEVES THAT INCORPORATION OF SPACE FOR FUTURE PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN PRESENT PLANNING WILL MAKE EVENTUAL PROJECTS MORE ECONOMIC AND EFFICIENT. FROM THIS PRESENTATION, KNOWN INTERESTS OF MR. JUNAID WOULD BE THE MORGANTOWN PEOPLE MOVER EXPERIMENT OF DOT AND THE WASHINGTON SUBWAY.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY IDEAS FROM WASHINGTON END OF PLACES, FIRMS AND INDIVIDUALS WHICH MR. JUNAID MIGHT VISIT NEAR WASHINGTON THAT WE COULD PRESENT TO HIM PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE CONTACT NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS IN ICA AND DOT FOR MR. JUNAID.

6. FOR KUWAIT: PLS PASS THE GIST OF THIS MESSAGE TO BOB BARKSDALE OR HIS STAFF IN HYDRO AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIVISION OF KUWAIT BECHTEL OFFICE. THEY MIGHT WISH TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MR. JUNAID TO MEET BECHTEL PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON.

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